

Application No. 09/766,270
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 32 and 41 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby when a new document is generated by unifying individual picked up pages, the registered document files are maintained.

Similarly, independent claims 50 and 52 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby when a new document is generated based on an editing operation that includes unifying individual picked up pages, the stored document file(s) are maintained.

That is, independent claims 32, 41, 50 and 52 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby when a new document is generated by unifying individual picked up pages (claims 32 and 41) or based on an editing operation that includes unifying individual picked up pages (claims 50 and 52), the original (registered/stored) document files are maintained. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 18, line 16 to page 19, line 17.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered.

Application No. 09/766,270
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 3-5, 7, 12, 22, 23, 29-33, 35, 36, 38-42, 44, 45 and 47-55 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,307,545 ("Conrad et al") and USP 6,549,302 ("Takeda et al"); and claims 11, 27, 34, 37, 43 and 46 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Conrad et al, Takeda et al and USP 6,084,688 ("Stumbo et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

The Examiner has cited Takeda et al at pages 4 and 9-10 of the Office Action as disclosing the feature of dividing a document into a plurality of pages and combining several documents into one. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Takeda et al discloses dividing a first document into three documents (considered by the Examiner to be individual pages), and the Examiner contends that Takeda et al discloses using combination and division instructions to modify documents. In addition, the Examiner asserts that these functions of Takeda et al are combinable with Conrad et al to achieve the structure of the claimed present invention.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that even if Takeda et al is assumed to have all of the functions attributed to it by

Application No. 09/766,270
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

the Examiner, the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 32, 51, 50 and 52 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

This is because, according to Takeda et al, if a document is divided into three documents (for example), then one document becomes three documents, and the original document is not maintained. In addition, according to Takeda et al, if one of these three documents is merged with another document, then there will be one resultant document of the merger and the original document from which the three pages was produced would not be maintained. Indeed, according to Takeda et al it is desirable to manipulate the pages of a manuscript while maintaining the order of the manuscript after division and combination of pages (see column 13, lines 54-64). And it is respectfully submitted, therefore, that it would not have been obvious based on the teachings of Takeda et al to maintain original documents while at the same time creating new by dividing and unifying pages from one or more original documents.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 32, 41, 50 and 52, the original (registered/stored) document files themselves are not merged and divided, but rather the original (registered/stored) document files are maintained while individual pages from one or more of

Application No. 09/766,270
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

the original (registered/stored) document files are manipulated and selectively unified to create a new, independent document. Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 32, 41, 50 and 52, the original (registered/stored) document files are not destroyed in the process of creating the new document file.

It is respectfully submitted that even if Conrad et al and Takeda et al and/or Stumbo et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the above described feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 32, 41, 50 and 52 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 32, 41, 50 and 52, and each of claims 3-5, 7, 11, 12, 22, 23, 27, 29-31, 33-40, 42-49, 51 and 53-55 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over the combination of Conrad et al, Takeda et al and Stumbo et al, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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- NO. 0098 P. 19 -

Application No. 09/766,270
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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